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STUDENTS LET DOWN BY TACTLESS CANDIDATE

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THE MCGILL DAILY

VOLUME 83 • NUMBER 27

None of the above since 1911

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1993

DAILY PHOTO: DAVID KENNEDY



Robert Douglas and Alfie Roberts at Friday's CDNBCA press conference

BY DAVID KENNEDY

A conference held to commemorate the 25th Black Writers Congress was interrupted last Saturday when participants discovered MUC police officers holding colleagues at gunpoint in the parking lot. The officers were responding to a bogus 911 call claiming that "five Black men" were robbing a house.

When astonished conference participants emerged from the Cote-de-Neiges Black Community Association (CDNBCA), they were met with "nightsticks, shouting, pushing and shoving", according to conference organizer Alfie Roberts.

Executive director of the CDNBCA, Black Community, Association director Roy Giddins, and businessperson Patrick Benjamin were being held at gunpoint by six MUC Police officers.

One of the participants, Robert Douglas, was assaulted by six officers after he openly questioned the motives of the police. The police officers quickly pinned him to the ground and then proceeded to arrest him.

His wrist sustained serious damages and remains in a cast.

Ironically, the conference at CDNBCA was called to address current Afro-American issues, including racism in Montreal. Mr. Douglas, a co-founder of the Black organization A.K.A.X., was scheduled to speak on issues of racism in Europe.

Douglas now faces criminal charges for resisting arrest, assaulting an officer, and obstructing justice.

"I don't understand why there were so many officers," said George Richardson, a member of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Association of Montreal, who was caught up in the police aggression.

He says that once the 20 or so conference participants learned that police had two directors of the community centre at gunpoint, they approached the officers out of con-

cern.

"So many of our people have been killed by police in these situations", said Richardson, "so we were afraid that something might happen. We wanted to see what was going on".

Although they escaped injury, Douglas was hauled in to Station 31.

Shortly after the incident, about ten conference participants went to Station 31, located across the street from the centre. The front door of the station had been locked, even

MUC bust conference

though it was a Saturday afternoon. When participants were finally admitted, no information was given. Douglas was released three hours later.

"We have a problem of perception", mused Station 31 Director Lorraine Lavoie to the Daily last Friday. Claiming that his officers were not necessarily to blame for the incident, he insists that any suspected burglar creates a "dangerous situation for people, and officers, too." He maintains that the large number of officers - 26 in total - was justified to control the conference participants. "If we take numbers, it is possible not to hurt anyone".

MUC police are especially eager to defuse charges of racism.

When asked the reason why Douglas was assaulted by officers, Lavoie maintained that he was "intervening with the police work." He claims that a policewoman was threatened by Douglas. "He was going to do it. He was going to charge her by the back [i.e. from

behind]".

Cleveland Joseph, a community centre member who was videotaping the conference, recorded most of the incident on videotape. Participants suggested that the presence of the camera helped restrain the officers.

In a press conference held last Friday, members of the Cote-de-Neiges Black Community Centre issued a detailed statement outlining the events of the incident. They have hired a lawyer to represent Mr. Douglas in his case against the police, and are attempting to correct the misinformation that has plagued mainstream media coverage.

Their statement has underlined the reckless behaviour and unnecessary violence of the MUC Police. They have revealed, for example, that a loaded gun was dropped on the ground by officers as they handled Mr. Douglas. The gun remained on the ground and pointed at Douglas' head for an "extended period of time" before it was re-

trieved by another officer.

They have noted that a large number of children were in the centre ten minutes before, adding that the behavior of the police could have compromised their safety had they arrived earlier.

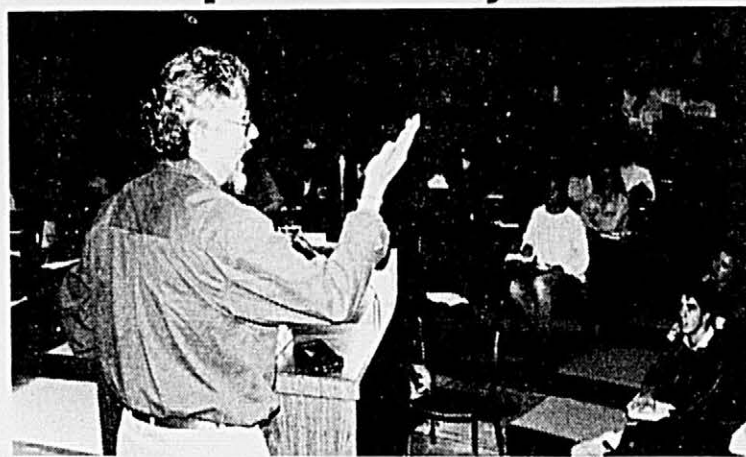
The CDNBCA has demanded that all charges be dropped against Mr. Douglas, that the officers involved be reprimanded, and that the police issue an apology to the Black community.

For now, they can only wait. The police have started an internal investigation of the incident. The CDNBCA claims that they were not informed of this directly. No apology has come from Station 31.

"It seems to us that it is a simple thing", stated Alfie Roberts of the Community Centre. "The police ought to simply respect the citizenry on any mission that they go on.... I think that it's very intolerable that they're pushing people to these kind of limits."

Suzuki Speaks: "Why Isn't The Environment on The Agenda?"

DAILY PHOTO: DAVID KENNEDY



Suzuki's impassioned address

BY BRIAN SARWER-FONER

Dr. David Suzuki, renowned geneticist, T.V. host, and environmental activist, spoke at McGill, urging people to reevaluate their relationship with the world around them.

He was outraged about the upcoming election, asking, "Why isn't the environment on the agenda? Why aren't we taking it seriously? Where have the media been in terms of this issue? Well, I don't know. I think there are a lot of reasons; I think that it is obviously very complex."

He spoke last Wednesday evening to a packed crowd in Leacock 132. The event, organized by The McGill Young Alumni Association, was sold out. The audience awarded him with a standing

ovation.

The subject matter of the oration ranged from spirituality to gutless scientists; from human impact on the environmental to Canadian politics: "Here we are in another election and where has the environment been?"

To answer that question, Suzuki presented a short history of policies, decision making, and lack of effective results in dealing with Canada and the world's environmental problems.

In an 1989 interview with ex-Environment Minister, Lucien Bouchard, Suzuki showed how some of the attempts to address these problems were unsuccessful.

Bouchard acknowledged that Global Warming is "a great threat

to the future of all species on Earth."

Yet, Bouchard said that he would not cancel all megaprojects supporting oil development, and not put money in projects that support alternative energy developments because he had promises to keep.

Suzuki also criticised Bouchard for never producing the promised Greenplan. Since then, Bouchard went on to pursue other priorities and "his commitments now are more important than the survival of the species."

Affirming the World Watch Institute's projections, Suzuki stated that we have less than 10 years to change our habits before it is too late to save the environment and secure a safe future for ourselves on the planet.

Suzuki expressed dismay that world leaders at the G7 meeting in Munich did not mention one word about the environment even though it took place two weeks after the June '92 Rio Earth Summit.

"It was as if the environment disappeared as an issue of any importance at all," he said.

The government marginalises the environment by representing it as a small sliver within the larger department of Finance, as Suzuki points out. "Now I don't know about you, but that doesn't make

any sense to me."

Suzuki, often known as "The Dr. of Doom and Gloom" illustrated that we are too preoccupied with the economy to be concerned with how we negatively affect the environment.

"Our numbers are skyrocketing; our technology to exploit the planet is also leaping up even more steeply. We are exploiting the planet on a vast scale and spreading our toxic debris around the Earth as a result, and we are mining what have traditionally been renewable resources to extinction."

He understands the true problem to be — us: "the real dilemma is not out there in the world, but what's inside of our heads."

During the question period, Suzuki was asked if he would consider ever running for office. He replied that we should have a lot of respect and rush out to support anyone with the courage to run with an environmental agenda, but as for himself, "I'm sure that I'd make a lousy politician."

When asked about if there is anybody worth voting for, Suzuki singled out "The Greens" and The National Party (for whom he wrote their environmental platform) as being OK, "but, I'm not telling you how to vote."



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EVENTS

Concordia's School of Graduate
Studies is holding a public lecture
entitled "Is our Moral Environ-
ment Protected?" at the Loyola
Chapel. Supreme Court Judge,
Honourable Charles Gonthier
will begin speaking at 20h00.

"Birth Control and Safer Sex -
What to use, where to get it and
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lowed by discussion, Thursday,
Oct. 28, 18h30 in Shatner 423.

Rhinoceros: The party of the cen-
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Continued On page 6

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"You can't look away anymore"
from the NY Sunday Times

BY WENDY LEVANT

As a young woman, breast cancer was never a serious concern for me. It was a disease that happened to people like my grandmother's sister-in-law, Auntie Lil.

It is, however, becoming increasingly obvious that this is not a disease that one can ignore. Breast cancer groups simply won't let you. A *New York Sunday Times* cover, boldly displaying a woman with a

Your best defense is early detection

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

scar for a breast, screams "you can't look away anymore". Breast cancer has literally become the feminist issue in the 90's.

On Wednesday October 20, the Breast Cancer Information Evening kicked off Breast Cancer Awareness month in Montréal. This event was presented by the Cedars Cancer Institute of the Royal Victoria Hospital and consisted of four different panels speaking on various issues within the topic.

The first section dealt with early detection of breast cancer. Nurse Bonnie Courte and Dr. Antoine Loutfi emphasized the importance of self examination, regular mammograms and physical check-ups. "Your best defense is early detection," Courte said.

Finding out you have breast cancer is your best defense? This ironically makes the disease all the more frightening, especially considering that there are an estimated one million women with undiagnosed breast cancer in the United States.

However, "80% of the lumps detected by women themselves are benign," added Courte.

Dr. Loutfi addressed many of the myths and questions about high-risk groups. At 25, he explained, a woman's risk of developing breast cancer is 1 in 20,000, at 45 it is 1 in 100, at 50, 1 in 50, finally at 80 reaches the frightening one in nine. This last statistic has been wielded by breast cancer groups as an attention grabber. Furthermore, if you have a family history of breast cancer with close blood relatives afflicted (such as a sister, mother, or

grandmother) your risk only goes up 5-10%.

The following section introduced possible preventative measures for breast cancer. According to Dr. Carol Milne, the Royal Vic is involved in a ten year \$70 million study called the Breast Cancer Prevention trial involving 16,000 women to study the effects of tamoxifen.

Tamoxifen has been effectively used in preventing the spread of breast cancer in women who already have it by one third. It has in no way been proven effective in preventing the disease itself. The reported side effects of tamoxifen include liver cancer, increased cases of phlebitis, and endometrial cancer — all of which seem to outweigh its merits. One can only wonder: with such less-than-promising results, why the \$70 million study?

The panel did not have much to say about the current suggested link of breast cancer and the high-fat diet of North American and European women. Interestingly, studies show that the incidence of breast cancer in South-East Asia is half that of ours, while fat content in their diet is marginal. Unfortunately, a proposed \$600 million US study involving 60,000 women and testing the effects of a low fat diet against women in a high risk category (over 50, post menopaual) was shelved at the last minute.

The panel seemed satisfied to explain and re-iterate the finer points of the tamoxifen trials rather than discuss alternative preventative measures. Dr Milne defended

the trials on the grounds that "prevention is better than a cure."

Breast cancer research is an extremely intricate issue and opinions differ on whether to concentrate on prevention, or on "management" of the disease and the search for a cure. For years, the rhetoric in North America has been dominated by The National Cancer Institute, The Canadian Cancer Society and The Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in the U.S., and of course the pharmaceutical companies. This conglomerate decides how some \$2 billion of taxpayers money will be spent.

The stakes are high and what seems as simple as 'we have a disease, let's tackle it', has gotten lost in the shuffle of power, money and key players connected to corporations that, depending on the policies the establishment sets, have a great deal to gain or lose.

The development of new drugs is also big business. In the US, it costs \$210 million to develop a new

drug, but once a patented drug is approved, the company stands to make hundreds of millions of dollars per year. The push for tamoxifen in spite of its misguided public health ramifications seems a little clearer now.

Groups like the National Breast Cancer Coalition promise a new strategy. Their policy of mass-mobilization is coherent, they have secured a \$343 million increase in US national funds for breast cancer. They started at the bottom, gathering 175,000 signatures of women diagnosed with the disease. Last October, during Breast Cancer Awareness month, the coalition delivered 600,000 signatures to Washington, asking for increased breast cancer research.

Although the Royal Victoria Hospital's Breast Cancer Information evening was not as comprehensive or clear as it could have been, and left me with more questions than answers, it marks an important step in the right direction.

Hidden Agenda of the Natural Law Party

BY DAVE EVERETT

Reeking of a shameless marketingscheme, the Natural Law Party's (NLP) federal election campaign is not nearly as innocent as the happy rainbow-filled posters may suggest.

Running for the first time in a federal election, the NLP proposes to solve all of Canada's problems through transcendental meditation. Its platform includes forming an all-party government "based on a scientifically-proven Constitution of the Universe."

"A 'Group for Government' comprised of 7,000 yogi flyers would harness the energy of natural law to raise society to a level of maximum coherence and harmony," said Michael Wilson, NLP candidate for Notre-Dame de Grace (NDG).

However, NLP's connections seem to indicate that the many party members are interested in far more than just harmony.

Dr. Neil Paterson, the leader of the Natural Law Party, is also the official leader of Maharishi Yogi's movement of consciousness for the North American continent. He also is a director on the board of the Maharishi Heaven on Earth Development Corporation.

opment Corporation.

The Maharishi Heaven on Earth Development Corporation was created in 1989 announcing Maharishi Yogi's plan for creating utopia on barren land around major American cities. Parcels of land would be sold to the Maharishi's followers at an inflated price of \$300,000 to \$1 million.

The Maharishi claims a heavy cut of the predicted windfall through development promotion and consultation services.

"As we can see, he thinks big," said Montague Guild, Jr., president of Heaven on Earth.

NLP senior Vice-President Dr. Doug Henning is a major partner in a \$1.5 billion Transcendental theme park development in Ontario. Henning, the forever smiling former magician, expressed his desire to "create a perfect government for an ideal problem-free Canada."

Both received their doctorates from the Maharishi European Research University in Switzerland.

The NLP also seems to have a lot of money for what many had considered a "fringe" party at the beginning of the campaign.

Wilson admitted that the costs of running a forty-page colour insert in Wednesday's *Globe and Mail* exceeded \$50,000.

"I wouldn't be surprised if that insert plus the ones in the Montreal papers cost over \$100,000," Wilson said.

NLP's marketing techniques don't stop at winning the election. In the Wednesday *Globe and Mail* insert, Transcendental books and courses are offered to the Canadian public at unlisted prices on 'Supreme Knowledge of Natural Law' for 'the Creation of a Perfect Government for a Problem-Free Canada'.

According to Wilson, "Basic first-level courses cost \$40."

Maharishi, who founded the Maharishi International University in Santa Barbara, California in 1974, founded the Transcendental movement in the 1960's. He attracted an impressive number of devotees, including celebrities such as the Beatles.

The base of his global following has expanded from wide-eyed zealots, to wealthy and influential right-wing professionals.

PHOTO COMMENT



DAILY PHOTO BY JEFF CORMIER

Bobby Hill inculcates CLR James' spirit in his commemoration of the 1968 Black Writers Congress.

Last week Friday, Bobby Hill, a veteran of the 1968 Black Writer's Congress spoke at The Garvey Hall on African and/or Black People Now and in to The 21st Century. The talk was part of a two day conference, organized by The Black Student's Network of McGill, The St. Vincent and Grenadines Association of Montreal and L'AFRICARBEQ in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Congress.

Hill is no stranger to Black historical literature. He was a close friend of the late C.L.R. James, and was named his literary executor after James' death in 1989. The

1968 Congress served as a catalyst for black political activism outside of the Caribbean. When the Federation of the West Indies fell in the early 1970's, many intellectuals were forced into exile. The growth of a national consciousness was cultivated by grass-roots organizations, especially in London and Montréal.

"What was begun here in 1965 in those halting obscure times had now linked itself with a growing liberation and anti-imperialist movement. Michael Manley could never have come to power without those events," said Hill.

COMMENT

Strategic Voting and the Decline of the Canadian Empire

Another election day. This time however, we may be redefining the nation. The rise in regional parties has meant a new set of issues and goals have overtaken the political agenda. While Canadians auger for change and an end to elitist politics, the implications of hardline sectarian movements seem hardly to be appreciated.

The Reform has captured the West because of Preston Manning's clever use of populist rhetoric. Drawing on Social Credit roots and prairie ideology, he has found his place in the hearts of old timers. A rather odd love affair considering his plans to restructure pensions and government aid. Rather astonishingly however, younger people are also joining the march.

In the name of change and 'Reform', Manning is appealing to the dissatisfied as the only real option. Using a simple vocabulary, and exercising an iron hold on the party, Manning has perpetuated the image of savior from the West. Few have analyzed his policies, and the people who put an NDP government in power in B.C. are now willing to side-step to the reformist right.

Offering little for women - who should stay at home and nurture family values, less for immigrants - who really don't belong here if their name isn't of old English stock, and nothing for the unemployed - hell if they're lazy we won't support them, the Reform threatens to create a Thatcher-like society where generations will grow up without knowing secure employment or decent opportunities.

Manning's benevolent rule is a nice illusion, until it is cracked by the real implications of such an ideology. The forced resignation of the Toronto area candidate John Beck last week after his racist remarks reveals the real face of reform. What a brilliant moment for York students, who brought the issue to light.

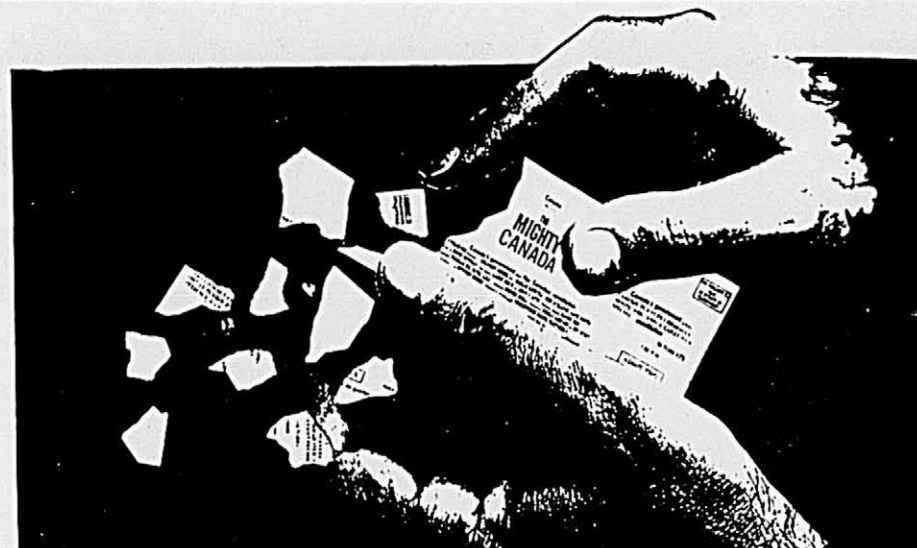
The Québec option is hardly more palatable. Bouchard's slippery politics have seen him glide from the Conservative team into the leftist net. Fuelled by the backlash against Crétien and Trudeau, the Bloc is harping on the same note as Reform: we are your only option. Whether the Québécois are really prepared to make the sacrifices for their independence, is a question that has not yet been answered.

The cost of infrastructure, of government bureaucracy, and of obtaining the experts required for running the province has to be reconciled with the emotional call for a nation. Land claims and self-determination will always cloud the dream, because Native issues need to be renegotiated, and then the English! Clyde Wells said yesterday that Quebec is only entitled to 1/3 of its present territory. Economic viability will undoubtedly be central to the question of sovereignty, but until the real questions are distilled from the evocative rhetoric, a vision of the future can hardly be purveyed.

Official multiculturalism has always been problematic, but the backlash against other groups is especially vociferous today. What are the middle-grounders doing? Voting "strategically". That is why we will have a Liberal-by-default government, every bit as conservative as the last.

Canadians have yet to redefine the modern nation. We lack heroes and dreams, and forget about the qualities we fought for for so long: toleration, peace making, and constructive change. That is why I was a proud Canadian. But then my nationalism is also being redefined.

Kristen Boon



HYDE PARK

The Facts about Animal Use For Biomedical Research and Education

Opinion submitted by Reza Forghani

The rewards of animal research affect your life on a daily basis, whether you are aware of it or not. Without the use of animals, there would be no vaccinations for children, no pain killers for toothaches, no research information presented in our classes.

Many want animal research curtailed or completely eliminated. Unfortunately, in many cases, these people speak not only out of conviction but out of ignorance. Those who are opposed to the use of animals in research and instruction present a number of arguments, all of which can easily be refuted if the facts are considered.

Despite what you might have been led to believe, only a very small proportion of animal usage is directed toward the biomedical field. In fact only 0.3% of all animals killed by humans is for the purpose of education or research. The vast majority, 96.5% of animal usage is

for food.

The notion that the animals endure great pain is also a huge misconception. In the rare cases where pain may be encountered, anaesthetics or pain-killing drugs are used. This is carefully monitored throughout Canada by the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

Due to both moral and economic concerns, researchers make a great effort to utilize a minimum number of animals. The truly wasteful deaths are those in the public ponds. If these animals were made available to the biomedical field, less animals would have to die and the cost of research would fall dramatically.

The benefits of this field are incredible. Vaccine and other drugs are constantly being improved, thereby allowing the medical profession to combat the countless diseases we face today. Practicing sur-

gery on animals is also an irreplaceable form of training for students as hands on training is the best way to learn something. Training videos will do nothing more than place more underqualified personnel in the hospital emergency rooms. Unfortunately, we do not live in a perfect world with no illness or pain. Sacrifices must be made. THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO ANIMAL RESEARCH.

Animal rights activists have been very vocal in their opinions while the opposing side has been relatively quiet. The only reason for current restrictions on animal use for research is the lack of opposition. This cannot be allowed to continue. Voice your opinion. Do not take these scientific advances for granted, for they may stop coming. The effort is minimal if everybody contributes. ACT NOW. BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!!!

ERRATUM

In Wednesday's article *Charges of sexual harassment countered by hunger strike*, by Mehreen Beig Mirza, clarification of the last paragraphs needed to be made.

Genova was in fact using Dhawan's budget to put out a news letter. She would later repay the university for expenses incurred. She had been cleared by the Associate-Dean when he informed Dhawan that Genova had spoken with him in 1991 about her activities.

But Dawan claims that there were four courier vouchers that she repaid only after the auditors investigation which Dawan had requested.

...LETTERS

To the Daily:

re: blatant generalizations made by Melanie Newton's slanderous comment (Thursday, Oct. 14, 1993).

In the future, should Ms Newton continue to slander international developmental organizations, she must familiarize herself with their policies. Fortunately the language used to confirm the unschooled nature of Ms. Newton's factually sterile argument.

Kate Gibbs

U3 English

To the Daily:

Perhaps it's just pure coincidence. But the two printed responses to Dan Koffler's analysis of the Mideast peace accords both have a shared sense of incoherence — the kind that would make a logician cringe. First, Jamil Mansour disparages the use of the terms 'rejectionist' or 'radical' to describe such Islamic fundamentalist groups as Hamas, Hezbollah, etc.

Please, call a spade a spade. Any organization that, regardless of overtures of peace, butchers unarmed civilians is both rejectionist and radical.

Next, he places the Knesset and Palestinian Central Council deliberations over the peace agreement on equal footing. Of course, the results of the two votes are incomparable. The Knesset represents a very broad range of voters while the 'Palestinian Central Council' represents only Arafat's wing of the PLO, never mind other Palestinian guerrilla organizations.

Knowing this, one is surprised why the council vote was not unanimous. And if indeed there are Israeli versions of Hamas, where are they? Why aren't they making death threats against their leaders like Hamas and company?

In spite of Sheema Khan's accusation, there is nothing in all of Dan's two-paragraph letter to suggest that he's 'Islamophobic.' He never said that the Qur'an says that 'before the Muslims can triumph etc.' Rather, he was quoting the opinion of a Palestinian rejectionist. Nor did Dan claim that

everyone who opposes the agreement wants to destroy Israel. It seems Khan deliberately misinterpreted the meaning of the letter in order to engage in a series of straw-man and ad homonym arguments.

Jamil Mansour, on the other hand, seems to have a knack for euphemism and manipulation of facts. Together, the intellectual value of their letter come to net sum of zero.

Erik Shechter
UI Poli-SciSINCE 1911
Vol. 83 No. 27

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THE MCGILL DAILY



Report Card: Grading the parties on student funding

BY ZACK TAYLOR

We've heard lots of rhetoric these past few weeks. We've seen youth forums on CBC, we've had candidates play pool in Gert's and we've seen party representatives duke it out in debates and forums on campus.

We know we can't trust these ever-shifting politicians to carry out their elaborate policies if and when they get into office. All we can do when we exercise our "most sacred democratic right" is take a look at their promises, and see how they stack up.

THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES

The PCs have cut university funding repeatedly over the past nine years.

As for the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP), the Tories in 1992 moved to surrender public control of the loans system. Since 1964 when CSLP was introduced, the federal government guaranteed the loans directly.

Their new plan is wrapped in pretty paper called "lender risk sharing". The idea is that banks will administer the loans directly, meaning that they collect outstanding loans. In short, you mortgage your mind, and some suit repossesses it when you can't pay it on their terms.

The PCs believe that CSLP costs too much, claiming that annual program spending has increased by 12 per cent each year for the last five years. According to Ca-

nadian Federation of Students studies, the Conservative numbers are flawed, as they don't take into account the amount of money recovered in late repayment.

There are currently several reforms on the books:

- Increase the weekly loan limit from \$105 to \$150. The annual borrowing limit will rise to \$5100.

- Increase assistance for part-time students from \$2500 to \$4000 per year. Interest payments are made while studying, and repayment of the principal begins six months after graduation.

- Possibly, forgive debts over \$3900 a year. Eligibility for this will probably be restricted, based on size of debt and successful completion of studies.

Other reforms include grants for female doctoral students, grants for disabled students, and interest relief for underemployed students.

They also propose changes to eligibility, tying it to successful completion of studies, compulsory enrolment in a specific program, limiting loans to people taking 80 per cent of a full course load, and lowering the total borrowing time to 340 weeks from 520. The PCs are also talking about tying loans to where you study.

GRADE:

A+ for thoroughness

B- for practicality — where the hell do they think all of the money is going to come from?

A+ for bureaucracy — makes me wish I was a bureaucrat so I could be paid to process all of this.

LIBERALS

The Liberals have promised to renegotiate transfer payments to the provinces. In an interview with the *Daily*, St. Henri-Westmount candidate David Berger speculated that while it wasn't in their platform, they may try to separate education and medicare, which are currently tied together in a single block payment.

At last Thursday's all-candidates' "meet the students day", Berger's communications director Mitchell Bellman spoke at length about Berger's commitment as Liberal Science and Technology critic these last few years, whatever that was supposed to accomplish. Despite the fact that both McGill and Concordia are in his riding, Berger apparently hasn't succeeded in bringing education issues to the fore in the Liberal Party, or in the House.

GRADE:

A+ for obfuscation

NEW DEMOCRATS

Well, St. Henri-Westmount candidate Ann Elbourne sure blew it by advocating higher student fees at McGill the other day.

Elbourne aside, the NDP has promised to renegotiate transfer payments in the hopes of cutting down administration costs and making funding more easily available.

They also want to set up a National Advisory Council on Education which will feature members from provincial, federal and terri-

torial governments, as well as from labour and business. Unfortunately they do not include students or delegates from education-related organizations. This independent government and privately funded council would give advice to government about education.

As for CSLP, they want to reverse the Conservatives' privatization plan. They also want to introduce a flexible payment scheme for students after they graduate based on their income. Whether this amounts to a replacement of CSLP by an income contingent loan repayment program is unsure.

The NDP has evidently been hoodwinked by the idea that changing loan repayment will fix the funding crunch by eliminating defaulters. CFS statistics indicate that over 90 per cent of borrowers repay their loans.

Their main reforms include:

- Raise the weekly loan limit, but they haven't given a number.

- Impose federal limits on tuition fee increases. How they hope to do this is pretty much your guess and mine, since it would probably spark and federal/provincial jurisdiction war. Hmmm.

GRADE:

A+ for transfer payment simplification]

F for even thinking about income contingent repayment

F for not really dealing with the problem of debt load or grants

— with generous help from CFS and PGSS files

History of federal transfer payments for education

BY ZACK TAYLOR

For the uninitiated, the intricacies of federal/provincial financial agreements are illogical at best. In order to understand the context and financial realities of federal education funding, here is some background to judge the impact of main party policies on post-secondary education.

John A. Macdonald and the boys didn't really anticipate the welfare state, with its big budgets and comprehensive social programs. There was no unemployment insurance, no medicare, no pensions, and no welfare.

In 1867 of course, public education did not exist. Jurisprudence over education was given to the provinces when they divided up all the duties in 1867.

With the rapid expansion of social programmes in the 1950s and 1960s, the provinces wanted control of the amount of money they got and where they would spend it. The answer was for the two levels of government to share the cost of the programs based on their tax base, but the provincial government would administer it.

Until 1976, with the completion of the Established Programs Financing (EPF) agreement on the part of both levels of government, the federal government matched money spent by the provinces. As can be imagined, costs spiraled out of control since the provinces essentially had a blank cheque.

EPF split federal contributions to shared-cost programmes such as health and education into two parts: block grants and tax point transfers. The upshot is that money is either given to the province in a no-strings-attached lump sum, or by transferring the federal taxing ability to the province.

How Education Fits In

Under EPF, education and health are lumped together in one block funding grant package — 28.75 per cent for post-secondary education, the remainder for Medicare.

The percentage has remained the same, but the amount of money reaching the programs is not.

The federal contribution is supposed to increase based on population and economic growth. From 1985 to 1989, the Tory government cut transfers by 2 per cent a year. In 1990 the government introduced a five-year freeze of transfer payments to the provinces.

Caryn Duncan, researcher for the Canadian Federation of Students, estimates that the combined lost revenue to colleges and universities will total \$9 billion by the 1994/95 fiscal year.

To combat this shortfall, universities have been forced to either going further into debt or raising tuition fees.

In 1980, governmental funding totalled 83.2 per cent of average universities' operating budgets, compared to 78.8 per cent a decade later. Tuition fees have become a more important source of funding, increasing from 13.1 per cent of the operating budget in 1980 to 17.8 per cent in 1990. Gifts, investment income and other sources have remained constant.

Contrast this with the fact that federal defence spending has exceeded education spending by a third — \$12 billion as opposed to \$8 billion in 1991-92 — and the extent of the last parliament's commitment to post-secondary becomes clear.

McGill's current deficit of \$72 million, the second largest deficit of any university in history, is in large part due to government funding cutbacks. Students can only hope that whichever government wins the election will seek to reverse this slide, and make university education better and more accessible through lower tuition fees and more funding.

The inside story behind income contingent loan plans

BY PAT BRETHOUR

WATERLOO (CUP)—Students A and B have both graduated from the University of Genex. Both owe \$20 000 in student loans. Both get a job with a \$25 000 starting wage.

Student A pays a fixed monthly amount towards her loans. If she loses her job, that obligation remains. She will have to repay the full amount of the loan and accumulated interest, regardless of her current financial situation.

Student B, however, repays his loans through his income tax. A percentage of his income is applied to the principal and accumulated interest of his student loan, and deducted from his income tax refund. As his income rises or falls, so does the amount of his loan repayment. If he hasn't repaid his debt, say, twenty years after graduating, the remaining amount is forgiven.

The difference between how Student A and B repay their loans may very well be the difference between the past of student assistance, and its future: income contingent loan repayment.

Repayment of loans is dependent [contingent] on the borrower's income.

In theory, an income contingent loan repayment program allows students to repay their student loans more easily, while allowing more people to attend university.

But detractors of income contingency say the plan is a ruse designed to usher in huge tuition increases. Income contingency will result, they

say, in a university system based on the ability to earn, rather than the ability to learn.

Inevitably, income contingent loan repayment plans are linked to an immediate, dramatic hike in tuition. Usually, tuition deregulation — which would end restrictions on tuition increases — is also proposed.

Student loans may be easier to pay back with income contingent loans, but higher debt loads brought on by tuition deregulation means some graduates could be making payments for years — some until their mid-fifties.

Because of interest charges, low-income graduates would end up paying much more for their education than would high-income graduates who paid off their loans quickly.

This feature of the plan would be a reversal of a basic notion of Canadian taxation, where high income earners pay more than those with lower incomes.

Most proposals for an income contingent loan repayment plan contain the following elements:

- loan repayment is made through the income tax system

- a set percentage of the borrower's income is applied against the loan, instead of a fixed debt payment. The amount to be paid is dependent [contingent] upon the borrower's income — hence the name income contingency loan repayment.

- if a borrower's income falls below a certain level — usually \$20 000 — no payment will be required until income rises above that level

- if a borrower has not paid back their loan by a certain time — usually 20 or 25 years — the remaining amount is forgiven

- interest is charged on student loans while the student is still in school

- no means testing for loans to cover academic expenses (tuition, books and ancillary fees). Loans for living expenses are still means tested.

- a private agency administers student loans

The idea of income contingency plans isn't new. Australia and Sweden introduced just such a repayment scheme in 1989. But the Swedish National Board of Student Aid said the new system is causing problems: "The debts are too high. The incomes are too low and in some cases the loan will never be repaid."

Canada officially considered income contingency in 1984, when the report of the Commission on the Future Development of the Universities of Ontario (the Bovey Commission) recommended that an ICLRP be introduced, along with an increase in tuition fees to cover 25% of a degree's cost.

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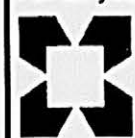
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EVENTS

Continued from page 2

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Auditions for *Musical Theatre Revue*. This your chance to perform your favorite tune. Call Savoy Society, 3986826/342-9933.

Group Action. Compulsory training meeting for all dorm rap leaders. Thursday, October 28th at 6:00 pm, 550 Sherbrooke room 1175. For more information call Lisa at 287-9677 or Nick at 282-1362.

McGill Side and the Baha'i Students' Society present a talk for UNICEF week. M.C. LeMan on "Street Children in Montreal" and Jose Alfredo on "Building El Salvador's Future: Education in rural Areas". Tuesday the 26th at 6pm, Shatner108.

McGill Southern African Committee presents Zethu Gumbi and Noninzi Luzipo on *Womens Involvement in the Constitutional Process and 'Election in South Africa*. Wednesday October 27, 14hr at 3715 Peel Street, Seminar Room.

Guest John Saul speaking on *Recolonization and Resistance in Southern Africa in the 1990's*. October 28, 19h30, Leacock 232, McGill University.

Sexual Assault Centre of McGill University, aid support group. *Women With Eating Disorders*, 19hr-21hr. Call 398-2700.

WUSC McGill refugee sponsorship committee meeting Wednesday 17hrs Shatner Building Cafeteria. All welcome. Need help in securing admission, finding housing, etc. Call Jill, 284-0609.

Latin American Awareness Group. Collection of notebooks, color paper, loose leaves, binders, crayon, pencil, pens, glue, cardboard, school bags and educational games. Financial donations will be accepted. Thursday October 28, 10hr-16hr30.

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time to read your
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FNEEQ



CSN

A draft collective agreement has been prepared to address the concerns of graduate student TAs at McGill. Union Council will meet to discuss the agreement:

Tuesday, October 26th
6pm, Thomson House

This document will affect all TAs on campus. Send someone from your department to the Council, or come by yourself! Copies of the agreement are available at the council meeting or in the TH reading room or soon at your departmental office. Be informed! Look-out for upcoming General Assembly in a few weeks when the Collective Agreement will be voted upon. For further information, leave a message at 336-2358, or email f3gs@musicb.mcgill.ca .

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McGill Multi-Faith Dialogue Group Mondays beginning Nov. 1, noon to 1:30, Birks Building, Room 104. For information: McGill Chaplaincy 398-4104.

LBGM Weekly discussion groups: Wed. Bi-group 5:30, 5th flr. Eaton Bldg. Fri. Coming Out 5:30, General 7:00, both at UTC, 3521 University. All welcome.

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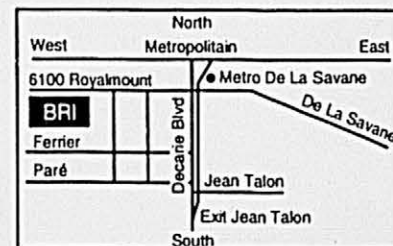
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SENATE BRIEFS

McGill's Senate, the main decision making body of the university met last Wednesday. The Senate meets every second Wednesday at 14h30 in Leacock 232.

McGill has a policy for sexual harassment and nothing solid on racial harassment.

McGill's Ombudsperson in a report presented October 6 and discussed last week expressed a need for a separate office for sexual harassment.

The Ombudsperson, professor Annette Werk said a separate office was necessary to facilitate the handling and confidentiality of the cases.

There was a suggestion that the office should be established to deal with harassment in general. Werk then explained her reasons for her proposal.

"There is no specific policy concerning racial harassment, which is a serious issue to be considered. The university separated them [sexual harassment and racial harassment] and that's why I separated them in my report," said Werk.

Motion to stop fund-raising for fraternities postponed by senate.

A motion proposed by Ruth Promislow, Students' Society VP University Affairs concerning fundraising for fraternities did not receive a lot of enthusiasm.

The motion which read, "Senate recommends to the Board of Governors that Martlet House shall discontinue to actively pursue fundraising or accept unsolicited gifts directed toward fra-

ternities or the spaces in which they occupy," was postponed until the next senate meeting.

This agitated some senators. "Why should we introduce a motion to stop doing something we are not doing," asked Senator Pat Farrell. Vice principal Michael Kiefer had explained that since his arrival in April 1989, no staff time or budget has been expended on fund-raising for fraternities.

Promislow defended her proposal arguing that the motion is directed at a statement in the Board of Governors book and that if McGill has stopped fund-raising for fraternities, they should formalize this.

McGill had coordinated, six years ago, a small campaign for the Zeta Psi fraternity. McGill senators defend the campaign on the basis that the funds were sought to upgrade the house which was owned by McGill and which was also occupied by Zeta Psi. In addition, during the last five years, there has been five unsolicited gifts for Zeta Psi.

Senator Farrall insisted that the motion should be postponed. "We have exceeded the 30 minutes discussion time and I don't see a reason why we should keep going" he said. As a result the question was postponed with the agreement of the majority of the senate.

Tenure figures

Senate also discussed procedures for professors applying for tenure. In a previous senate meeting, the University Appeals Committee pre-

sented a report which emphasized external funding as a criterion for tenure.

Some Senators expressed concern that too much emphasis was placed on the ability of candidates to bring in funding.

Professor Pat Farrell, in a dissenting opinion in the report, noted that "quality of scholarship may not depend on external funding."

As a result Farrall moved, seconded by Robert Vogel, that existing guidelines with respect to reappointment, promotion, or tenure, for any faculty, school, or department, be brought before senate for consideration.

Rich Latour, an Arts student representative raised the issue of the accessibility of students to course evaluations. It was decided that the evaluations will be accessible to students by the end of this fall. However, students still do not have representation on the tenure committee.

Bologaro and Baseball

The Continuing Education presented a list of its courses to be approved by Senate, included in which was "Baseball: History and Appreciation."

Some Senators suggested it was a waste of time. However, Eugenio Bologaro, representative for Graduate students said, "It's rather absurd why this course should not be taken seriously. Baseball plays a significant role in our society."

—by Afra Jalabi

SSMU BRIEFS

Students' Society not-so-brief

At a special meeting last Thursday, Students' Society voted in favour of a motion to negotiate the sub-contracting of Sadie's to an outside body, most likely Marriot. "We're keeping the thing that brings us money and we're ditching the losers," said Science rep Jennifer Small, in support of the motion.

The special meeting was called at the last minute for reasons discussed in executive session, but most probably having to do with the status of Sadie's manager, Robert Werbin. "Sadie's is managerially hanging by a thread," said vp Finance, Paul Johnson.

Sadie's has been a constant source of financial woe to SSMU since the tabagie opened in 1976, losing money each year except for between '87 and '89. The reason Sadie's was profitable for these three years, is that "In 1987, [Sadie's] received a contract to sell debit cards. If you take out the [profit from the debit cards], you see we have a deficit of \$8 206," said Students' Society president

Mark Luz.

According to unaudited financial statements distributed by Johnson, Sadie's lost \$33 430 last year and is projected to lose \$37 070 this year. SSMU is dog-goned if it knows why Sadie's can't keep afloat.

"I'm sorry, but right now we can't afford the time to answer that," Johnson said.

"We know this is the right decision to make and quite frankly it's the only decision. It's a good option," said Luz.

Marriot has a miserable track record for hiring students, but Luz said that student employment is "non-negotiable... They will definitely be employed."

Students' Society has not asked for guarantees that the same number of students will be hired, or that their salaries won't be cut.

The contract, if it goes through, will last for three years, with a 90-day cancellation option.

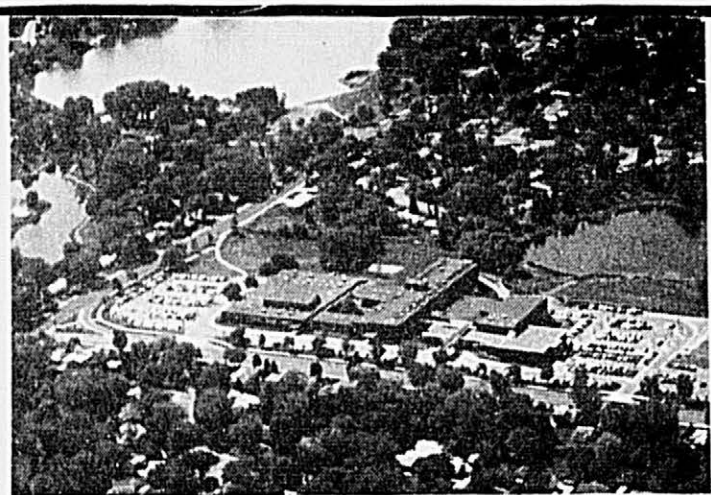
"All we're doing is dumping the financial liabilities on someone else while keeping the [services]," said Luz.

SEXUAL ASSULT CENTRE of McGill Students Society 398-2700



MYTH: A woman claims to have been raped, but is seen at a bar/party the next night — she must be lying.

FACT: Everyone deals with trauma differently. There is no single method for dealing with sexual assault.



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Abolitionist party leader John Turmel

Issues suffer at hands of political expediency

Students leave frustrated and disappointed

BY DAVE EVERETT AND DAMION STODOLA

An election meeting organised to inform students on candidates' positions on student and youth issues left many confused and frustrated with the politician's cheap tactics.

Student representatives from the McGill Students for Renewal Club, the Woman's Union, Lesbians/Bisexuals/Gays of McGill and the McGill Daily questioned candidates from Natural Law to the Progressive Conservative parties on student issues.

But as organisers and students learned, inviting candidates to an open and democratic discussion does not guarantee a candidate will behave with respect to the informative purpose of the meeting.

Abolitionist party president, John Turmel, is the case in point. He continually interrupted the event with angry outbursts.

To a question on violence against women he said "If you could humanize the economy you'd have less poor people needin' to rape ya"

to get their jollies. If they had nice apartments they wouldn't have to do it the ugly way."

In response to a question on gay rights and equality, he stated "I don't believe the God I believe in gives a damn where mankind puts his dick."

Arnold August, Liberal-Marxist candidate for St-Henri/Westmount, said these statements distracted the audience from the issues. "He did everything to undermine the serious discussion that the candidates and the students carried out."

August said Turmel's presence discredited the integrity and mission of the meeting. "His actions shouldn't cast a shadow on our party or any other serious, small party."

Beyond Turmel's non-candidacy, students were unsatisfied with the contribution of the larger parties to the discussion.

Joya Balfour, U2 English student, said she did not leave the meeting with positive feelings. "I left disappointed that a lot of candidates choose to ignore the issues," she said. "I didn't hear anything that provided me with a positive message for their candidacy."